

RECOGNIZING SCOTTISH RITE FOR CHILDREN'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 5, 2021

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to recognize and celebrate Texas Scottish Rite for Children on 100 years of orthopedic excellence and commitment to improving the lives of children around the world.

Founded by a group of Texas Masons, Scottish Rite for Children first opened its doors on October 10, 1921. In partnership with Dallas' first Orthopedic Surgeon, Dr. William Bell Carrell, the clinic's mission was to provide free medical care to children with polio. Following the eradication of polio in America, the hospital grew to specialize in complex pediatric orthopedic conditions with a focus on muscles, bones, and joints. The scope of care would further broaden to include neurodevelopmental and musculoskeletal conditions as well as specific learning disorders.

What began as a one-room clinic run by Dr. Carrell has today grown into a world-renowned hospital whose groundbreaking research has paved the way for advanced treatments for over 350,000 patients.

Home to several specialized research centers, Scottish Rite remains a pioneer in innovative treatments holding over fifty patents. Active involvement in hundreds of projects range from areas focused on molecular genetics to those in bioengineering and biomechanics. Further, collaboration between researchers from various educational backgrounds have resulted in the creation of surgical implants, treatment for specific disorders, and rehabilitation aids.

The success of the hospital would not be possible without the help of volunteers, staff member and donors who have a shared commitment to improving the lives of the children they serve locally and across the world.

Today, Scottish Rite has distinguished itself as a healthcare campus instilling hope in patients and caregivers. Designed with both patient and family experience in mind, its research centers and facilities are connected to playgrounds, parks, and fitness centers, while the colorful hallways carry the aroma of the over two tons of signature popcorn popped annually.

Consistently recognized as a top-performing children's hospital, it is no surprise they have been ranked among the Top 5 Orthopedic Programs in the U.S. News & World Report's Best Children's Hospital's survey and have also been recognized on multiple occasions by NRC Health with the Excellence in Patient Experience Award.

Now as we recognize Scottish Rite for Children on this milestone occasion, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring 100 years of exemplary care and innovation.

RECOGNIZING THE SHEPHERD'S CENTER OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 5, 2021

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the volunteers of the Shepherd's Center of Northern Virginia and to thank them for their many contributions to the Northern Virginia community.

Organized in 1997, the formally named Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna (SCOV) is a nonprofit that provides services to help older adults continue living independently, and it offers programs that supply opportunities for enrichment, learning, and socialization.

Each year, over 250 volunteers support older residents who want to both age in place in their homes and stay engaged in social activities. Services are available free of charge to anyone age 50 or older who resides in the local community.

In the past few years, the Shepherd's Center has greatly expanded their geographical footprint. After seeing a rising need in Reston and Herndon for free transportation services for seniors, the original Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna expanded their service area. Earlier this year that expansion continued as the Shepherd's Center expanded to include the former territory covered by the Shepherd's Center of Great Falls, creating one unified Shepherd's Center of Northern Virginia.

As the Shepherd's Center has grown, they have been able to share their vision with even more older adults in our communities which has been more important than ever. The commitment to a world without loneliness has a whole new meaning as we have navigated this pandemic with social distancing and quarantining. The Shepherd's Center's innovation and dedication to our community has been invaluable, especially during this past year and a half.

The services and programs offered by the Shepherd's Center help to ensure that our seniors stay connected to the community through the promotion of active lifestyles, ongoing social integration, and availability of resources for older residents to use their experience, training, and skills in significant roles in society.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the Shepherd's Center of Northern Virginia for its work to enable older adults in our community to age in place and enjoy their golden years with dignity and independence. I thank the many volunteers who generously dedicate their time and efforts to the welfare of our neighbors. The value of their contributions cannot be overstated and are deserving of our highest praise.

RECOGNIZING THE FAIRFAX COUNTY 4-H ACHIEVEMENT NIGHT CEREMONY AWARDEES

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 5, 2021

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Fairfax County 4-H Achievement Night Ceremony Awardees.

Each year, the Fairfax County 4-H offers fun and hands-on learning experiences to youth ages 5 through 18 with the help of dedicated volunteers. These unique opportunities to educate on subjects such as animals, leadership, cooking, and the outdoors is contributing towards developing our future leaders of tomorrow. This year's awardees are integral to the success of Fairfax County 4-H, and the enrichment opportunities and experiences will last a lifetime. It is my honor to include in the RECORD the following awardees and commend them for their service to the Fairfax County 4-H:

Emilia Anderson, Sugirthan Arun, Sarah Banko, Lauren Banko, Becca Berglie, Alexandra Blake, Ariana Blake, Avery Blosil, Jonathan Carney, Tyler Carney, Renee Coppock, Kate Diller, Tony Diller, Mary Moss, Sofia Parra-Gomez, Owen Penrose, Nora Pollack, Jason Powers, Ashley Powers, Ashlynn Prisky, Katrina Rakusan, Helen Rix, Hannah Rosenbusch.

Ariana Dzubin, Ethan Dzubin, Maria Frago, Penny Gray, James Gray, Juliette Hainuat, Charlotte Hainuat, Emily Hollinger, Lucas Hollinger, Ian Kruszewski, Johanna McMullen, Alexa Mitchell, Kaitlin Moss, Anya Sargurudoss, Sabrina Shumway, Madeline Smith, Rosemary Stuhldreher, Anna Townsend, Kate Townsend, Chris'Shon Trice, Athena Trollinger, Matthew Trollinger.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the Fairfax County 4-H award recipients. These individuals have dedicated countless hours of service to ensure that the Fairfax County 4-H is able to provide exceptional leadership and learning opportunities to the youth of Fairfax County, Virginia.

IN SUPPORT OF THE SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 3684 INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 5, 2021

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) gives the overall infrastructure in the United States a dismal C- rating—and many of ASCE's scoring categories, including roads, waterways, levees, transit, and wastewater, score lower than the nation's overall average. Our national infrastructure is crumbling, outdated, and in urgent need of significant upgrades. Additionally, the largest source of energy-related carbon dioxide emissions in the country comes from the transportation sector, which disproportionately affects low-income communities and communities of color. Though this legislation leaves out many of the crucial climate provisions in the House-passed INVEST in America Act, it still represents a robust and meaningful investment in a more connected and resilient nation.

The IIJA makes overdue investments in our nation's transportation sector. IIJA provides \$110 billion for roads, bridges, and major projects, and makes some notable investments in clean transportation by providing more than \$20 billion for electric vehicle

charging infrastructure—the single largest federal investment of its kind in history. These investments are necessary, because 43 percent of public roadways are in poor condition, 40 percent of the 600,000 bridges in the United States are at least 50 years old, and more than one-third of all bridges need repairs. In addition, the IIJA includes over \$16 billion for waterway and coastal projects, including \$2.25 billion for the Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP), which supports investments in projects to upgrade and modernize ports. Coastal communities like mine in Oregon understand how important these investments are to maintain and expand ports as hubs for commerce, employment, and transportation.

Widespread and dependable public transit systems are necessary to create more equitable communities and reduce carbon emissions. Public transportation provides communities with affordable commuting options that facilitate access to employment, school and daycare, vital health care services, and more. The Department of Transportation reports that nearly half of the total carbon footprint of the typical American family with two cars comes from car transportation. The IIJA provides more than \$39 billion to support public transit, which will help reduce congestion and carbon emissions. This investment is estimated to support repairs for more than 24,000 buses, 5,000 rail cars, and thousands of miles of tracks, all of which will help connect communities and support emissions reductions. The bill also includes \$5 billion for low- and zero-emission buses—including school buses—which will help cut emissions that hurt vulnerable communities and students.

Climate change is increasing the intensity and frequency of severe weather events like the fires, heatwaves, and droughts that the Pacific Northwest has experienced over the last year. We must improve our nation's infrastructure to withstand and protect people and property from these extreme weather events. The IIJA includes \$65 billion for power and grid infrastructure resilience and expansion. This includes funding to support efforts to harden the electric grid against disruptive weather events, as well as funding to promote innovative demonstration projects that will improve grid resilience. The legislation also provides more than \$3 billion for wildfire risk reduction efforts, including funding for firefighting resources, and \$3 billion for the U.S. Forest Service to implement ecosystem restoration projects that can help minimize the spread of wildfires.

Though broadband access has steadily declined for the overall population, Americans who are non-white, less educated, lower income, and residents of rural communities disproportionately have limited broadband access. The 19 million Americans that lack access to consistent, quality broadband, may have greater difficulty realizing certain employment, educational, and social opportunities. To help remedy this disparity, the IIJA invests \$65 billion for broadband investment, including funding for state grants, additional support for rural communities and Tribes, and support to accelerate broadband uptake through digital literacy training.

By making crucial investments in our nation's infrastructure, this bill will create new, good-paying jobs and will help support our nation through the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. It represents a significant commit-

ment toward a more connected and resilient nation, and I applaud the House and Senate for passage of this historic legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF CORNERSTONES

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 5, 2021

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the 50th Anniversary of Cornerstones.

Established in 1970 to address the need for affordable housing, Cornerstones has grown to become a significant human services provider and advocate for those struggling to make ends meet in Northern Virginia. Over the years, Cornerstones' scope of programs and number of clients has continued to grow. Cornerstones has expanded to cover most of northwestern Fairfax County and has been able to help more than 16,000 neighbors each year who need housing, childcare, food, or financial assistance.

Cornerstones promotes self-sufficiency by providing support and advocacy for those in need of food, shelter, affordable housing, quality childcare, and other human services. The wrap-around services—provided by Cornerstones not only addresses the immediate needs of their clients, but also help provide the support needed for individuals and families to break the cycle of poverty or homelessness and begin their journey to independence and self-sufficiency. Cornerstones continues to envision a community that values all people and shares resources and services to empower those in need.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Cornerstones has continued to provide vital services and programs to the most vulnerable in our community that have been hit hard by COVID-19. With adjustments to in-person services to engage people safely, and a new focus on virtual programs, Cornerstones has been able to continue making a positive impact.

There were drastic increases in the number of individuals and families seeking assistance from the Cornerstones' Food Pantry, as well as their other services such as their youth programs, community and neighborhood resources, and housing counseling programs. Cornerstones was able to rise to the challenge and meet the demand with their dedicated staff and volunteers.

Cornerstones emphasizes the importance of stability, empowerment, and hope through their work in Fairfax County. Their commitment and resilience throughout the past 50 years, and especially throughout the pandemic, serves as a beacon of inspiration for our county as we continue to work to address the systemic inequities and barriers that exist for so many.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Cornerstones for their 50th anniversary, and I sincerely thank their employees and volunteers who give their time and energy on behalf of our community. Their efforts provide immeasurable benefits to their fellow neighbors and serve as a reminder of why Fairfax County remains such a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 3684, THE INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 5, 2021

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, today I cast my vote in support of this once-in-a-generation bipartisan infrastructure bill. While the bill does not contain as many resources as I feel are needed nor is it as robust as initially envisioned, the legislation makes a momentous investment in infrastructure that Chicago and our nation desperately need.

Chicago needs the largest federal investment in public transit ever.

Chicago needs the largest investment in passenger rail since the creation of Amtrak.

Chicago needs to improve its bridges, highways, and schools.

Our neighborhoods need clean drinking water, our lead pipes need replacing, and our wastewater infrastructure requires substantial improvements. Parents should know that the water they're kids are drinking is safe from lead leaching out of old pipes or contaminated brownfields.

Chicago needs the good paying jobs—union jobs—with an expected 2 million jobs per year with critical labor protections, buy America provisions to support manufacturing here at home, and jobs in the growing clean energy industry.

Chicago needs the historic investment in highspeed internet to every American household to erase the digital divide and improve equity in technology access. Students, workers, and seniors on the West Side of Chicago shouldn't be locked out of education, applying for jobs, and accessing services by limited internet.

Chicago needs the cleaner environment that comes with electric buses and renewable energy. African American children experience higher rates of asthma, and diesel air pollution hurt our communities.

This legislation advances economic and public health opportunities for people of color. The effects of decades of disinvestment have fallen hardest on communities of color. Through substantial investments in good-paying jobs, affordable high-speed internet, public transportation, safe drinking water, and modern bridges and roads, this bill works to improve racial and economic equity.

I wholeheartedly support the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act because doing so guarantees tens of millions of dollars and thousands of jobs for Illinois, helping revitalize my community and communities across the country.

RECOGNIZING THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MERRIFIELD FOR THEIR 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 5, 2021

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the First Baptist Church of Merrifield